SAMUEL

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III-D. Troubles with Amnon, Absalom, and Sheba

(2 Samuel 13-20)

971-975 BC

(Steinmann 122-23)

Amnon Rapes Tamar

(2 Samuel 13a)

985 BC

(13-23; Steinmann 122)

- *Amnon Pines for Tamar (13:1-2)*

[13:1]And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her. [2]And Amnon was so vexed, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar; for she was a virgin; and Amnon thought it hard for him to do any thing to her.

- *Amnon's Cousin Jonadab Plans an Opportunity to Rape Tamar (13:3-5)*

[3]But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtil man. [4]And he said unto him, Why art thou, being the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, the wife of Absalom my brother. [5]And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand.

- *Amnon Rapes Tamar (13:6-14)*

[6]So Amnon lay down, and made himself sick: and when the king was come to see him, Amnon said unto the king, I pray thee, let Tamar my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat at her hand. [7]Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, Go now to thy brother Amnon's house, and dress him meat.

[8]So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes. [9]And she took a pan, and poured them out before him; but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, Have out all men from me. And they went out every man from him.

[10]And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother.

[11]And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister. [12]And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly. [13]And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee.

[14]Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.

- *Amnon Despises Tamar (13:15-18)*

[15]Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone. [16]And she said unto him, There is no cause: this evil in sending me away is greater than the other that thou didst unto me. But he would not hearken unto her. [17]Then he called his servant that ministered unto him, and said, Put now this woman out from me, and bolt the door after her. [18]And she had a garment of divers colours upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters that were virgins apparelled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her.

- *Tamar Goes into Mourning (13:19-22)*

[19]And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colours that was on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying. [20]And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he is thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

[21]But when King David heard of all these things, he was very wroth.

[22]And Absalom spake unto his brother Amnon neither good nor bad: for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

Absalom Kills Amnon, Flees, and Is Recalled

(2 Samuel 13b-14)

- *After Two years Absalom Kills Amnon (13:23-29)*

981 BC

(13:23, 37; Steinmann 122)

[13:23]And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal-hazor, which is beside Ephraim: and Absalom invited all the king's sons. [24]And Absalom came to the king, and said, Behold now, thy servant hath sheepshearers; let the king, I beseech thee, and his servants go with thy servant. [25]And the king said to Absalom, Nay, my son, let us not all now go, lest we be chargeable unto thee. And he pressed him: howbeit he would not go, but blessed him. [26]Then said Absalom, If not, I pray thee, let my brother Amnon go with us. And the king said unto him, Why should he go with thee? [27]But Absalom pressed him, that he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.

[28]Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant. [29]And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.

- *The False Report that All of the King's Sons Have been Killed (13:30-36)*

[13:30]And it came to pass, while they were in the way, that tidings came to David, saying, Absalom hath slain all the king's sons, and there is not one of them left. [31]Then the king arose, and tare his garments, and lay on the earth; and all his servants stood by with their clothes rent.

[32]And Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother, answered and said, Let not my lord suppose that they have slain all the young men the king's sons; for Amnon only is dead: for by the appointment of Absalom this hath been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar. [33]Now therefore let not my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead: for Amnon only is dead.

[34]But Absalom fled. And the young man that kept the watch lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came much people by the way of the hill side behind him. [35]And Jonadab said unto the king, Behold, the king's sons come: as thy servant said, so it is. [36]And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of speaking, that, behold, the king's sons came, and lifted up their voice and wept: and the king also and all his servants wept very sore.

- *Absalom Flees to Geshur for Three Years (13:37-38)*

[13:37]But Absalom fled, and went to Talmai, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day. [38]So Absalom fled, and went to Geshur, and was there three years.

[39]And the soul of King David longed to go forth unto Absalom: for he was comforted concerning Amnon, seeing he was dead.

- *Joab Arranges for a Woman to Feign Mourning for Her Banished Son (14:1-20)*

[14:1]Now Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was toward Absalom. [2]And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto her, I pray thee, feign thyself to be a mourner, and put on now mourning apparel, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that had a long time mourned for the dead: [3]And come to the king, and speak on this manner unto him. So Joab put the words in her mouth.

[4]And when the woman of Tekoah spake to the king, she fell on her face to the ground, and did obeisance, and said, Help, O king. [5]And the king said unto her, What ailest thou? And she answered, I am indeed a widow woman, and mine husband is dead. [6]And thy handmaid had two sons, and they two strove together in the field, and there was none to part them, but the one smote the other, and slew him. [7]And, behold, the whole family is risen against thine handmaid, and they said, Deliver him that smote his brother, that we may kill him, for the life of his brother whom he slew; and we will destroy the heir also: and so they shall quench my coal which is left, and shall not leave to my husband neither name nor remainder upon the earth.

[8]And the king said unto the woman, Go to thine house, and I will give charge concerning thee. [9]And the woman of Tekoah said unto the king, My lord, O king, the iniquity be on me, and on my father's house: and the king and his throne be guiless. [10]And the king said, Whosoever saith ought unto thee, bring him to me, and he shall not touch thee any more. [11]Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the Lord thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, As the Lord liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth.

[12]Then the woman said, Let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak one word unto my lord the king. And he said, Say on. [13]And the woman said, Wherefore then hast thou thought such a thing against the people of God? for the king doth speak this thing as one which is faulty, in that the king doth not fetch home again his banished. [14]For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him.

[15]Now therefore that I am come to speak of this thing unto my lord the king, it is because the people have made me afraid: and thy handmaid said, I will now speak unto the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his handmaid. [16]For the king will hear, to deliver his handmaid out of the hand of the man that would destroy me and my son together out of the inheritance of God. [17]Then thine handmaid said, The word of my lord the king shall be now comfortable: for as an angel of God, so is my lord the king to discern good and bad: therefore the Lord thy God will be with thee.

[18]Then the king answered and said unto the woman, Hide not from me, I pray thee, the thing that I shall ask thee. And the woman said, Let my lord the king now speak. [19]And the king said, Is not the hand of Joab with thee in all this? And the woman answered and said, As thou liest, my lord the king, none can turn to the right hand or to the left from ought that my lord the king hath spoken: for thy servant Joab, he bid me, and he put all these words in the mouth of thine handmaid: [20]To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth.

- *David Recalls Absalom from Geshur (14:1-24)*

980 BC

(13:37; 14:28; Steinmann 123)

[14:21]And the king said unto Joab, Behold now, I have done this thing: go therefore, bring the young man Absalom again. [22]And Joab fell to the ground on his face, and bowed himself, and thanked the king: and Joab said, To day thy servant knoweth that I have found grace in thy sight, my lord, O king, in that the king hath fulfilled the request of his servant. [23]So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. [24]And the king said, Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face. So Absalom returned to his own house, and saw not the king's face.

- *Absalom's Beauty (14:25-27)*

[14:25]But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. [26]And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled it: because the hair was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight. [27]And unto Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name was Tamar: she was a woman of a fair countenance.

- *Absalom Received Back into David's Presence (14:28-33)*

978 BC

(14:28; 15:7; Steinmann 123)

[14:28]So Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, and saw not the king's face. [29]Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to have sent him to the king; but he would not come to him: and when he sent again the second time, he would not come. [30]Therefore he said unto his servants, See, Joab's field is near mine, and he hath barley there; go and set it on fire. And Absalom's servants set the field on fire. [31]Then Joab arose, and came to Absalom unto his house, and said unto him, Wherefore have thy servants set my field on fire? [32]And Absalom answered Joab, Behold, I sent unto thee, saying, Come hither, that I may send thee to the king, to say, Wherefore am I come from Geshur? it had been good for me to have been there still: now therefore let me see the king's face; and if there be any iniquity in me, let him kill me. [33]So Joab came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom.

III-E. David's Late Kingship

(2 Samuel 21 - 24)

Famine and the Gibeonites

(2 Samuel 21a)

During about 996-988 BC

(Steinmann 122)

[21]Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David inquired of the Lord. And the Lord answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites. [2]And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah.)

[3]Wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the Lord? [4]And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shall thou kill any man in Israel. And he said, What ye shall say, that will I do for you.

[5]And they answered the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Israel, [6]Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the Lord in Gibeah of Saul, whom the Lord did choose. And the king said, I will give them. [7]But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the Lord's oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul. [8]But the king took the two sons of Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah, whom she bare unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite: [9]And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the Lord: and they fell all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.

- *Amasa Sent to Assemble the Troops, Joab Kills Amasa to Reclaim His Position (20:4-13)*

[9]Then said the king to Amasa, Assemble me the men of Judah within three days, and be thou here present. [5]So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah: but he tarried longer than the set time which he had appointed him.

[6]And David said to Abishai, Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than did Absalom: take thou thy lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he get him fenced cities, and escape us. [7]And there went out after him Joab's men, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and all the mighty men: and they went out of Jerusalem, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

[8]When they were at the great stone which is in Gibeon, Amasa went before them. And Joab's garment that he had put on was girded unto him, and upon it a girdle with a sword fastened upon his loins in the sheath thereof, and as he went it fell out. [9]And Joab said to Amasa, Art thou in health, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him. [10]But Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.

[11]And one of Joab's men stood by him, and said, He that favoureth Joab, and he that is for David, let him go after Joab. [12]And Amasa wallowed in blood in the midst of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he removed Amasa out of the highway into the field, and cast a cloth upon him, when he saw that every one that came by him stood still. [13]When he was removed out of the highway, all the people went on after Joab, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

- *Joab Besieges Abel, Sheba Killed (20:14-22)*

[14]And he went through all the tribes of Israel unto Abel, and to Beth-maachah, and all the Berites: and they were gathered together, and were also gathered after him. [15]And they came and besieged in Abel of Beth-maachah, and they cast up a bank against the city, and it stood in the trench: and all the people that were with Joab battered the wall, to throw it down.

[16]Then cried a wise woman out of the city, Hear, hear; I pray you, unto Joab, Come near hither, that I may speak with thee. [17]And when he was come near unto her, the woman said, Art thou Joab? And he answered, I am he. Then she said unto him, Hear the words of thine handmaid. And he answered, I do hear.

[18]Then she spake, saying, They were wont to speak in old time, saying, They shall surely ask counsel at Abel: and so they ended the matter. [19]I am one of them that are peaceable and faithful in Israel: thou seekest to destroy a city and a mother in Israel: why wilt thou swallow up the inheritance of the Lord?

[20]And Joab answered and said, Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy. [21]The matter is not so: but a man of mount Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, hath lifted up his hand against the king, even against David: deliver him only, and I will depart from the city.

[22]And the woman said unto Joab, Behold, his head shall be thrown to thee over the wall. [23]Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and cast it out to Joab. And he blew a trumpet, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king.

- *David's Principal Servants (20:23-26)*

[24]Now **Joab** was over all the host of Israel: and ***Benaiah*** the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites: [25]And ***Adoram*** was over the tribute: and ***Jehoshaphat*** the son of Ahilud was recorder: [26]And ***Sheva*** was scribe: and ***Zadok*** and ***Abiathar*** were the priests: [27]And ***Ira*** also the Jairite was a chief ruler about David.

III-F. Solomon's Succession

(1 Kings 1-2)

971-969 BC

(Steinmann 123-25)

Adonijah's Revolt Put Down, Solomon Becomes Co-Regent

(1 Kings 1)

971 BC

(Steinmann 123)

- *Abishag Cares for David (1:1-4)*

[1]Now king David was old and stricken in years: and they covered him with clothes, but he gat no heat. [2]Wherefore his servants said unto him, Let there be sought for my lord the king a young virgin: and let her stand before the king, and let her cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my lord the king may get heat. [3]So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel, and found Abishag a Shunamite, and brought her to the king. [4]And the damsel was very fair, and cherished the king, and ministered to him: but the king knew her not.

- *Adonijah Proclaims Himself King (1:5-10)*

[5]Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he *prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him*. [6]And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also was a very goodly man; *and his mother bare him after Absalom*.

[7]And he conferred with ***Joab*** the son of Zeruiah, and with ***Abiathar*** the priest: and they following Adonijah helped.

[8]But ***Zadok*** the priest, and ***Benaiah*** the son of Jehoiada, and ***Nathan*** the prophet, and ***Shimei***, and ***Rei***, *and the mighty men*, and ***Solomon*** his brother, he called not.

- *Nathan and Bathsheba Inform David of Adonijah's Revolt (1:11-27)*

[9]And Adonijah slew sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which is by Enrogel, and called all his brethren the king's sons, and all the men of Judah his servants:

[10]But ***Nathan*** the prophet, and ***Benaiah***, *and the mighty men*, and ***Solomon*** his brother, he called not.

[11]Wherefore Nathan spake unto Bath-sheba the mother of Solomon, saying, Hast thou not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith doth reign, and David our lord knoweth not thereof? [12]Now therefore come, let me, I pray thee, give thee counsel, that thou mayest save thine own life, and life of thy son Solomon. [13]Go and get thee in unto king David, and say unto him, Didst not thou, my lord, O king, swear unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? why then doth Adonijah reign? [14]Behold, while thou yet talkest there with the king, I also will come in after thee, and confirm thy words.

[15]And Bath-sheba went in unto the king into the chamber: and the king was very old; and Abishag the Shunammite ministered unto the king. [16]And Bath-sheba bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What wouldest thou? [17]And she said unto him, My lord, thou sware by the Lord thy God unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? why then doth Adonijah reign? [18]Behold, while thou yet talkest there with the king, I also will come in after thee, and confirm thy words.

[19]And Bath-sheba went in unto the king into the chamber: and the king was very old; and Abishag the Shunammite ministered unto the king. [20]And Bath-sheba bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What wouldest thou? [21]And she said unto him, My lord, thou sware by the Lord thy God unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? why then doth Adonijah reign? [22]And, behold, while she yet talked with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in. [23]And they told the king, saying, Behold Nathan the prophet. And when he was come in before the king, he bowed himself before the king with his face to the ground. [24]And Nathan said, My lord, O king, hast thou said, Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? [25]For he is gone down this day, and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and the captains of the host, and Abiathar the priest; and, behold, they eat and drink before him, and say, God save king Adonijah. [26]But me, even me thy servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and thy servant Solomon, hath he not called. [27]Is this thing done by my lord the king, and thou hast not shewed it unto thy servant, who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?

- *David Reaffirms that He Will Be Succeeded by Solomon (1:28-31)*

[28]Then king David answered and said, Call me Bath-sheba. And she came into the king's presence, and stood before the king. [29]And the king sware, and said, As the Lord liveth, that hath redeemed my soul out of all distress, [30]Even as I sware unto thee by the Lord God of Israel, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead; even so will I certainly do this day. [31]Then Bath-sheba bowed with her face to the earth, and did reverence to the king, and said, Let my lord king David live for ever.

- *Solomon Anointed as King (1:32-40)*

[32]And king David said, Call me Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. And they came before the king. [33]The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon: [34]And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon. [35]Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah. [36]And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, and said, Amen: the Lord God of my lord the king say so too. [37]As the Lord hath been with my lord the king, even so be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord king David.

[38]So Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon king David's mule, and brought him to Gihon. [39]And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save king Solomon. [40]And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them.

- *Adonijah Informed that Solomon Has Been anointed King (1:41-49)*

[41]And Adonijah and all the guests that were with him heard it as they had made an end of eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, Wherefore is this noise of the city being in an uproar? [42]And while he yet spake, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came: and Adonijah said unto him, Come in; for thou art a valiant man, and bringest good tidings. [43]And Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, Verily our lord king David hath made Solomon king. [44]And the king hath sent with him Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and they have caused him to ride upon the king's mule: [45]And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king in Gihon: and they are come up from thence rejoicing, so that the city rang again. This is the noise that ye have heard. [46]And also Solomon sitteth on the throne of the kingdom. [47]And moreover the king's servants came to bless our lord king David, saying, God make the name of Solomon better than thy name, and make his throne greater than thy throne. And the king bowed himself upon the bed. [48]And also thus said the king, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which hath given one to sit on my throne this day, mine eyes even seeing it.

[49]And all the guests that were with Adonijah were afraid, and rose up, and went every man his way.

Absalom Killed in Battle with David's Troops

(2 Samuel 18a)

- *David Organizes His Loyal Troops (18:1-5)*

[18:1]And David numbered the people that were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them. [2]And David sent forth a third part of the people under the hand of ***Joab***, and a third part under the hand of ***Abishai*** the son of Zeruiah, brother to Joab, and a third part under the hand of ***Ittai*** the Gittite.

[3]And the king said unto the people, I will surely go forth with you myself also. ***But*** the people answered, Thou shalt not go forth: for if we flee away, they will not care for us; neither if half of us die, will they care for us: but now thou art worth ten thousand of us: therefore now it is better that thou succour us out of the city. [4]And the king said unto them, What seemeth you best I will do. And the king stood by the gate side, and all the people came out by hundreds and by thousands.

[5]And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.

- *David's Troops Defeat Absalom (18:6-8)*

[6]So the people went out into the field against Israel: and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim; [7]Where the people of Israel were slain before the servants of David, and there was there a great slaughter that day of twenty thousand men. [8]For the battle was there scattered over the face of all the country: and the wood devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

- *Joab Kills Absalom (18:9-18)*

[9]And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.

[10]And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak. [11]And Joab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest him, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? and I would have given thee ten shekels of silver, and a girdle. [12]And the man said unto Joab, Though I should receive a thousand shekels of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Beware that none touch the young man Absalom. [13]Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life: for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldest have set yourself against me.

[14]Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak. [15]And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.

[16]And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing after Israel: for Joab held back the people.

[17]And they took Absalom, and cast him into a great pit in the wood, and laid a very great heap of stones upon him: and all Israel fled every one to his tent. [18]Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and reared up for himself a pillar, which is in the king's dale: for he said, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance: and he called the pillar after his own name: and it is called unto this day, Absalom's place.

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David's Reaction to Absalom's Death

(2 Samuel 18b-19a)

- *Two Runners Vie to Deliver News to David (18:19-23)*

[18:19]Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok, Let me now run, and bear the king tidings, how that the Lord hath avenged him of his enemies. [20]And Joab said unto him, Thou shalt not bear tidings this day, but thou shalt bear tidings another day: but this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because the king's son is dead. [21]Then said Joab to Cushi, Go tell the king what thou hast seen. And Cushi bowed himself unto Joab, and ran.

[22]Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok yet again to Joab, But howsoever, let me, I pray thee, also run after Cushi. And Joab said, Wherefore wilt thou run, my son, seeing that thou hast no tidings ready? [23]But howsoever, said he, let me run. And he said unto him, Run. Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain, and overran Cushi.

- *David Receives News of Absalom's Death (18:24-33)*

[24]And David sat between the two gates: and the watchman went up to the roof over the gate unto the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running alone. [25]And the watchman cried, and told the king. And the king said, If he be alone, there is tidings in his mouth. And he came apace, and drew near. [26]And the watchman saw another man running: and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, Behold another man running alone. And the king said, He also bringeth tidings. [27]And the watchman said, Methinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, He is a good man, and cometh with good tidings. [28]And Ahimaaz called, and said unto the king, All is well. And he fell down to the earth upon his face before the king, and said, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king. [29]And the king said, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Ahimaaz answered, When Joab sent the king's servant, and me thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what it was. [30]And the king said unto him, Turn aside, and stand here. And he turned aside, and stood still. [31]And, behold, Cushi came; and Cushi said, Tidings, my lord the king: for the Lord hath avenged this day of all them that rose up against thee. [32]And the king said unto Cushi, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Cushi answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is.

[33]And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

- *Joab Rebukes David for Publicly Mourning Absalom (19:1-8)*

[19:1]And it was told Joab, Behold, the king weepeth and mourneth for Absalom. [2]And the victory that day was turned into mourning unto all the people: for the people heard say that day how the king was grieved for his son. [3]And the people get them by stealth that day into the city, as people being ashamed slink away when they flee in battle. [4]But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, son, my son!

[5]And Joab came into the house to the king, and said, Thou hast shamed this day the faces of all thy servants, which this day have saved thy life, and the lives of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the lives of thy wives, and the lives of thy concubines; [6]In that thou loest thine enemies, and hatest thy friends. For thou hast declared this day, that thou regardest neither princes nor servants: for this day I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and all we had died this day, then it had pleased thee well.

[7]Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak comfortably unto thy servants: for I swear by the Lord, if thou go not forth, there will not tarry one with thee this night: and that will be worse unto thee than all the evil that befell thee from thy youth until now. [8]Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And they told unto all the people, saying, Behold, the king doth sit in the gate. And all the people came before the king: for Israel had fled every man to his tent.

- *Public Confusion over the Kingship (19:9-10)*

[9]And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, The king saved us out of the hand of our enemies, and he delivered us out of the hand of the Philistines; and now he is fled out of the land for Absalom. [10]And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back?

- *David Has the Priests Prompt Judah to Request David's Return (19:11-15)*

[11]And king David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, saying, Speak unto the elders of Judah, saying, Why are ye the last to bring the king back to his house? seeing the speech of all Israel is come to the king, even to his house. [12]Ye are my brethren, ye are my bones and my flesh: wherefore then are ye the last to bring back the king? [13]And say ye to Amasa, Art thou not of my bone, and of my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if thou be not captain of the host before me continually in the room of Joab. [14]And he bowed the heart of all the men of Judah, even as the heart of one man; so that they sent this word unto the king, Return thou, and all thy servants. [15]So the king returned, and came to Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to conduct the king over Jordan.

- *Shimei Begs Forgiveness (19:16-23)*

[16]And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite, which was of Bahurim, hasted and came down with the men of Judah to meet king David. [17]And there were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over Jordan before the king. [18]And there went over a ferry boat to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good.

[18]And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, as he was come over Jordan; [19]And said unto the king, Let not my lord impute iniquity unto me, neither do thou remember that which thy servant did perversely the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart. [20]For thy servant doth know that I have sinned: therefore, behold, I am come to first this day of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king.

[21]But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the Lord's anointed?

[22]And David said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah, that ye should this day be adversaries unto me? shall there any man be put to death this day in Israel? for do not I know that I am this day king over Israel? [23]Therefore the king said unto Shimei, Thou shalt not die. And the king sware unto him.

- *Mephibosheth Rebuked by Ziba (19:24-30)*

[19:24]And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came again in peace. [25]And it came to pass, when he was come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said unto him, Wherefore wentest not thou with me, Mephibosheth?

[26]And he answered, My lord, O king, my servant deceived me: for thy servant said, I will saddle me an ass, that I may ride thereon, and go to the king; because thy servant is lame. [27]And he hath slandered thy servant unto my lord the king; but my lord the king is as an angel of God: do therefore what is good in thine eyes. [28]For all of my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king: yet didst thou set thy servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What therefore have I yet to cry any more unto the king?

[29]And the king said unto him, Why speakest thou any more of thy matters? I have said, Thou and Ziba divide the land. [30]And Mephibosheth said unto the king, Yea, let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king is come again in peace unto his own house.

- *Barzillai Blessed (19:31-40)*

[31]And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim, and went over Jordan with the king, to conduct him over Jordan. [32]Now Barzillai was a very aged man, even fourscore years old: and he had provided the king of sustenance while he lay at Mahanaim; for he was a very great man. [33]And the king said unto Barzillai, Come thou over with me, and I will feed thee with me in Jerusalem.

[34]And Barzillai said unto the king, How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king unto Jerusalem? [35]I am this day fourscore years old: and can I discern between good and evil? can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king? [36]Thy servant will go a little way over Jordan with the king: and why should the king recompense it me with such a reward? [37]Let thy servant, I pray thee, turn back again, that I may die in mine own city, and be buried by the grave of my father and of my mother. But behold thy servant Chimham; let him go over with my lord the king; and do to him what shall seem good unto thee.

[38]And the king answered, Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do to him that which shall seem good unto thee: and whatsoever thou shalt require of me, that will I do for thee. [39]And all the people went over Jordan. And when the king was come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place. [40]Then the king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him: and all the people of Judah conducted the king, and also half the people of Israel.

Sheba's Rebellion

(2 Samuel 19c-20)

987 BC

(Steinmann 123)

[19]Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David inquired of the Lord. And the Lord answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites. [2]And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah.)

[3]Wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the Lord? [4]And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shall thou kill any man in Israel. And he said, What ye shall say, that will I do for you.

[5]And they answered the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Israel, [6]Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the Lord in Gibeah of Saul, whom the Lord did choose. And the king said, I will give them. [7]But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the Lord's oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul. [8]But the king took the two sons of Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah, whom she bare unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite: [9]And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the Lord: and they fell all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.

- *David and Ten Concubines (20:3)*

[20:3]And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women his concubines, whom he left to keep the house, and put them in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto the day of their death, living in widowhood.

- *Amasa Sent to Assemble the Troops, Joab Kills Amasa to Reclaim His Position (20:4-13)*

[4]Then said the king to Amasa, Assemble me the men of